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TASHI TURNS 25!
A whole generation of children around the world have grown up with Tashi and his adventures and we’re celebrating with ...

three new early concept picture books,
a deluxe hardback 25th Anniversary edition (with an added story),
and four new bind-ups of the Tashi 1-16 series, collated by theme
by Anna & Barbara Fienberg, Kim Gamble, Arielle & Greer Gamble.

Contact Carey Schroeter for details, careys@allenandunwin.com
PICTURE BOOKS
AGES 3–6

CLANCY THE QUOKKA
Lili Wilkinson, illustrated by Alison Mutton

Here’s Clancy the quokka, so friendly and charming.
His innocent face is truly disarming.
But don’t be deceived by his grinning and beaming.
On the inside our Clancy is plotting and scheming.
Clancy the Quokka may be super cute – but he’s also super mischievous! When Clancy spots a magnificent birthday cake, how can he resist? He ruins the party but does he learn his lesson? An adorable story about a very naughty quokka for fans of Pig the Pug and The Very Cranky Bear.

Lili Wilkinson is an award-winning author. Her YA novels include The Boundless Sublime, Green Valentine, Pink and After the Lights Go Out and she established the insideadog.com.au website and the Inky Awards at the Centre for Youth Literature, State Library of Victoria, both of which champion high quality YA literature. www.liliwilkinson.com.au. Alison Mutton is an illustrator working in the children’s and educational publishing fields. www.alene-art.com

October 2019  •  250x240mm  •  HB  •  Full Colour Throughout  •  32pp
WORLD RIGHTS

PICTURE BOOKS
AGES 3–6

LITTLE NIC’S BIG DAY
Nic Naitanui, illustrated by Fátima Anaya

Little Nic’s Big Day is a heartwarming celebration of all the wonderful ways kids are truly themselves. It champions diversity, difference and inclusion.

Wake up, little Nic. It’s your very first day!
Your school clothes are ready. Let’s get on our way.
Mum, I’m not sure. I’m a little bit wary.
Will I make friends? Will it be scary?
Nic is nervous about his first day at school ... but with the help of his mum and a whole class of new friends, it might just be the best day ever.

Author Nic Naitanui is a well-known, widely respected and much-loved Australian Football League player. He advocates strongly and vocally against racism and discrimination both on and off the field. He is committed to giving back to the community and travels extensively to schools, talking to hundreds of kids. For Nic, Little Nic’s Big Day is a way of reframing the conversation of diversity in a positive and energetic way so that all kids can celebrate and value difference in themselves and others.

Nic Naitanui was born in Sydney to Fijian parents and raised by his mother who he credits with fostering his strong values and success. Fátima Anaya lives in El Salvador with her family, including Milu, a Siberian Husky.

November 2019  •  260x275mm  •  HB  •  Full Colour Throughout  •  32pp
WORLD RIGHTS
ARE THESE HEN’S EGGS?
Christina Booth

A sweet story of friendship and co-operation, unconditional love and a surprising egg hunt.

Hen is counting the days until her eggs hatch.

But one night a wild storm scatters them far and wide.

The other animals search high and low and gather them together.

But are they all Hen’s eggs?

Perfect for reading aloud or alone, this simple yet charming picture book encourages counting, animal identification and a whole lot more. Its gentle themes include resilience, perseverance, diversity, friendship, family and community. It’s also a lovely way to introduce children to adoption.

Christina Booth is an award-winning author and illustrator. She has won a CBCA Honour Book Award for Kip, and the Environment Award for Children’s Literature for Welcome Home.

PICTURE BOOK
AGES 3–6

ARE THESE HEN’S EGGS?
Christina Booth

TIGER & FRIENDS SERIES
Alex Rance, illustrated by Shane McG

The Tiger & Friends picture books are wonderfully entertaining motivational stories featuring an endearing group of friends, some of whom share their paths from obstacle through to success. Intended to facilitate emotional growth and to inspire children to be their best authentic selves, this friendly warm series encourages self-belief, determination, being kind, supporting others, the importance of family and having fun.

Monkey’s Tail: A Tiger & Friends book
Howler Monkey is the best at climbing trees until he injures his tail and has to find a way to restore his sense of self.

Rabbit’s Hop: A Tiger & Friends book
Rabbit is invited to Big Island. He’s very excited – and a little bit scared. Does he have the skills required to get there? Can he overcome his fear, face the challenges, and fulfil his dream?

Tiger’s Roar: A Tiger & Friends book
Tiger is the champion of the jungle. But one day he falls from a tree and knocks his confidence. Will Tiger find the courage and strength to climb the tree again?

Alex Rance is a highly successful professional sportsman and author who is passionate about helping kids achieve their dreams by being the best they can be through persistence and team work, with a focus on staying true to themselves. www.instagram.com/alexrance. Shane McG is an award-winning picture book illustrator and author. shanemcgworld.com

ARE THESE HEN’S EGGS?
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PICTURE BOOKS

February 2020 • 260x260mm • HB • Full Colour Throughout • 32pp
WORLD RIGHTS

March 2020, June 2019, June 2018 • 280x216mm • HB • Full Colour Throughout
32pp • WORLD RIGHTS • RIGHTS SOLD: Tiger’s Roar - Greek (Agyra)
PICTURE BOOKS

THERE’S NO SUCH THING
Heidi McKinnon

A funny, warm and reassuring story from the internationally acclaimed creator of *I Just Ate My Friend* and *Baz & Benz*.

Ted and Bear are camping.

Bear can’t sleep.

Did you hear that? Did you feel that?

What was it?

It wasn’t a hungry giant or a blood-sucking spider or a fire-breathing dragon because THERE’S NO SUCH THING...

Is there?

Heidi McKinnon is a graphic designer and picture book creator. Her titles are published internationally including in the US, China, France, Germany, Japan and Korea.

www.heidimckinnon.com

BAZ & BENZ

A funny and warm-hearted story about a little owl exploring the boundaries of love and friendship.

Awards:

- Children’s Book Council of Australia Early Childhood Notable. Shortlists announced 31 March 2020

Rights sold:

- North American English (S&S Books for Young Readers)
- Chinese Simp (Chengdu Frientor Technology/Chengdu Chaoyouai Technology)
- German (Carlsen)
- Japanese (Ushio Shuppan)

March 2019; August 2017 • 250x250mm; 280x230mm • HB • Full Colour Throughout • 32pp

WORLD RIGHTS • RIGHTS SOLD (see above)

I JUST ATE MY FRIEND

A hilarious story about the search for friendship and belonging...

and a little bit about the importance of impulse control...

Awards:

- Shortlisted for the Children’s Book Council of Australia Book of the Year, Crichton Award for New Illustrators, 2018
- Longlisted, Indie Book Awards, Children’s Fiction, 2018
- Longlisted, Children’s Picture Book of the Year, Australian Book Industry Awards, 2018
- Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection, Fall 2018

Rights sold:

- North American English (S&S Books for Young Readers)
- Chinese Simplified (Folio (Beijing) Culture and Media Co)
- French (La Palissade)
- Japanese (Ushio Shuppan)
- Korean (Hanulim Kids Publishing)

‘A humorous and gentle reminder about the give and take of friendship, this wonderfully quirky story is sure to end in a giggle’ Four and a half stars, Sunday Telegraph

March 2020 • 250x250mm • HB • Full Colour Throughout • 32pp

WORLD RIGHTS
Based on a heart-warming true story of a brave koala who saved her baby from a forest fire.

Tippy and her baby Jellybean live in a beautiful eucalyptus forest.
One day, they wake up and sniff the air. It’s smoky, hot and windy.
Kangaroos and wallabies are bounding.
Lizards and snakes are slithering.
Wombats are heading to their burrows.
The cockatoos take off in an enormous flock.
Tippy can’t hop. Or run. Or fly.
So she shelters her baby in the only way she can...

Sophie Cunningham is the author of five books, a former publisher and editor, was a co-founder of the Stella Prize and is now an Adjunct Professor at RMIT University’s Non/fiction Lab. In 2019 she was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her contributions to literature. Illustrator Anil Tortop also works as an animator and character designer. She was born and raised in Turkey moved to Australia in 2011.

TIPPY AND JELLYBEAN
Sophie Cunningham, illustrated by Anil Tortop

The Astronaut’s Cat is quintessential Tohby Riddle – aesthetically engaging, wonderfully whimsical, humorous and thought-provoking.

The astronaut’s cat is an inside cat.
And she likes it like that.
Inside is comfy.
Outside isn’t.
From inside Cat’s spaceship, outside looks amazing! But it’s not a place for cats.

While Cat is inside, Astronaut is often outside. In Cat’s dreams, she goes outside too. She leaps and pounces and glides across the moonscape, she dreams of Earth rising into the ink-black sky. And in her dream she dreams that she lives on Earth – beautiful Earth – as an outside cat.

When Cat wakes she remembers she’s an astronaut’s cat, an inside cat, in a spaceship on the moon. And that is that.

A gorgeous picture book that celebrates the landscapes of the moon, the beauty of Earth and the wonder of space – by one of Australia’s finest creators.

Tohby Riddle is the multi-award-winning creator of illustrated books including the CBCA Honour Book Here Comes Stinkbug, Yahoo Creek, and Unforgotten.
PICTURE BOOKS

YELLOW TRUCK ROAD TRAIN
Mandy Tootell

Uniquely Australian with accurate local vocabulary, Yellow Truck Road Train features vibrant artwork and a fabulous read-aloud text about a truck-driving, cattle-wrangling family who navigate the roads and changing seasons in Australia’s Top End.

Dad is waiting for the wet season to end so Yellow Truck Road Train can get back to work.

There are cattle and donkeys to load, kangaroos to look out for, heat and dust, and always plenty to do.

Featuring Australia’s Outback landscape and lifestyle, vast distances, and plenty of big trucks and machines, this beautifully illustrated, fun and captivating picture book encourages children to think about lives totally different from their own.

Come aboard Yellow Truck Road Train!

June 2020 • 210x290mm • HB • Full Colour Throughout • 32pp
WORLD RIGHTS

GIRL FROM THE SEA
Margaret Wild and Jane Tanner

A lyrical ghost story with stunning illustrations from two of Australia’s finest children’s picture book creators.

Who lives in that cottage by the sea?
I wish. I wish. I wish it was me.

A girl lost at sea comes ashore in spirit, yearning for family. She finds family, in the cottage by the sea, and although only the animals can see her, she connects with the family as best she can.

This moving ghost story is rich with themes of love, family, loss and remembrance. Filled with atmosphere, layers of meaning and symbolic imagery, Girl from the Sea is sure to capture hearts and elicit discussion.

Margaret Wild’s children’s books have won many awards and have been published with great success in many countries. They include Old Pig, Fox, The Dream of the Thylacine, all illustrated by Ron Brooks, and Chalk Boy illustrated by Mandy Ord. Margaret has been the recipient of the Nan Chauncy Award and the Lady Cutler Award for her contributions to Australian Literature.

Jane Tanner is the acclaimed illustrator of many bestselling picture books including There’s a Sea in my Bedroom, The Wolf, The Fisherman and the Theefyspray and Lucy’s Cat and the Rainbow Birds.

May 2020 • 290x220mm • HB • Full Colour Throughout • 32pp
WORLD RIGHTS
LANDING WITH WINGS
Trace Balla

From the multi-award-winning creator of Rivertime, Rockhopping and The Thank You Dish comes another celebration of the world around us. Presented as a young girl’s nature diary, Landing with Wings explores a joyful journey of discovery as she spreads her wings and puts down roots in an ancient land.

Miri and her single mum have moved house often. Now they are starting a new life in the country. Miri keeps a nature diary, and in learning about the plants, animals and places around her, she shows how gentle observation and engagement with the natural world can have a ripple effect, not only on her own psyche, but on those around her too. She and her mum gradually settle into their new home, make friends and become part of the wider community. They also discover and embrace local Aboriginal culture – for which Trace consulted with Dja Dja Wurrung Elders.

Complete with beautiful artwork, Trace’s distinctive voice, delightful characterisation and a universal message reminding us to stay in touch with the earth, Landing with Wings is heartwarming and inspiring.

Trace Balla’s previous books are highly acclaimed, having won the CBCA Book of the Year Award, Readings Children’s Book Prize, and Wilderness Society’s Environment Award for Children’s Literature, as well as being short-listed for the New South Wales Premier’s Literary Awards, Speech Pathology Book of the Year Awards, and the Adelaide Festival Awards for Children’s Literature.

April 2020 • 215x280mm • HB • Full Colour Throughout • 80pp
WORLD RIGHTS

ANZAC GIRL: THE WAR DIARIES OF ALICE ROSS-KING
Kate Simpson, illustrated by Jess Racklyeft

It was 1914 when Sister Alice Ross-King left Australia for the war. The crowd held coloured streamers and waved handkerchiefs above their heads.

‘Don’t go,’ her mother told her.
‘I have to,’ Alice said simply.

Nursing was her passion – all she had ever wanted to do.

Now her country needed her, and she was ready.
But Alice wasn’t ready. Nobody was.

This is the true story of Anzac girl, Sister Alice Ross-King, who sailed to war in December 1914 unable to imagine the horrors that she would see, the dangers she would face, or the love she would find – and lose.

For four long years she served unwaveringly through heartbreak, exhaustion and the atrocities of war. She was brave, humble and endlessly compassionate.

Using extracts from Alice’s actual diaries kept in the Australian War Memorial, this story and its emotive collage illustrations gently capture the danger, the heartache and the history of the young nurse who would one day become the most decorated woman in Australia. Author Kate Simpson is the great-granddaughter of Alice Ross-King.

Kate Simpson is a picture book author, podcast host and bookworm. She loves books about girls who march to the beat of their own drum and about women who change the world. Jess Racklyeft is the acclaimed creator of cards, picture books, paintings, prints and other illustrated projects. Recent awards include the CBCA Notable for Picture Book of the Year two years running.

March 2020 • 292x242mm • HB • Full Colour Throughout • 32pp
WORLD RIGHTS
SHERLOCK BONES AND THE SEA-CREATURE FEATURE
Renée Treml

There’s a monster in the museum! Join the intrepid Sherlock Bones and his oddball partners, for another crazy and very funny expedition as they solve the mystery of the monster and save the State Natural History Museum!

Hi there, I’m Sherlock Bones - I’m a frogmouth skeleton (really) AND a mystery-solving superstar!

Together with my trusty partners, silent Watts and sassy Grace, we’re here to solve another mystery. This time there’s a MONSTER!

Plus, we have a new sidekick, but he can be tricky to keep track of...

What an adventure!

‘Sherlock Bones and the Natural History Mystery is a funny and charming graphic novel for children. It guides its readers through a solvable mystery that keeps things mysterious enough to be genuinely stimulating. This book will reward young readers and please parents with the way it treats learning as play, provides education and entertainment in equal measure, and assumes its audience are intelligent and curious.’

Online ArtsHub, May 2019

SHERLOCK BONES AND THE NATURAL HISTORY MYSTERY
Renée Treml

A hilariously funny, action-packed mystery starring the intrepid Sherlock Bones and his trusty side-kick Watts.

One’s a frogmouth bird skeleton and the other’s a stuffed parrot, and together they’re the greatest detectives in the whole Museum of Natural History. Can they find the missing blue diamond and save the Museum before it’s too late?

Quirky and engaging, this mystery story is just right for early readers.

Shortlisted: 2020 Readings Children’s Book Prize
Shortlisted: 2019 Speech Pathology Award, Eight to Ten Yrs

Renée Treml is the author and illustrator of several successful and awarded picture books for very young readers, including Once I Heard a Little Wombat, Ten Little Owls and Wombat Big Puggle Small. Renee has a degree in environmental science and a love of natural history.
On a tiny island far away, in a sea that ripples with magic, Monty never knows what he might find ... An adventurous and delightful new series from beloved author Emily Rodda.

Monty and his friends live on a perfect island in the middle of a magical sea. Each morning Monty and Tawny the Fearless Lion take Monty’s Pick-up Sled down to the beach to see what the waves have left behind. There’s shells and driftwood and sometimes lost things from faraway places too – sometimes they discover very interesting things indeed! Monty collects them, and Rodda expertly weaves them into clever yet fun island adventures featuring Monty and his delightful friends. With plot twists, chapter cliffhangers, an appealing setting, loveable characters and well-rounded story arcs, this series is sure to please. Girls and boys alike will love it!

**BOOK 1: SCARY MARY AND THE STRIPE SPELL**
Monty, Tawny and friends receive some startling news: Scary Mary and her pirate crew are on their way, looking for a new island to call home.

What can they do? There’s no way they can hide – especially when Bunchy accidentally turns the whole island stripy with her new magic wand.

It’s going to take one of Monty’s best ideas to save them!

**BOOK 2: BEADY BOLD AND THE YUM-YAMS**
Everyone loves Bring-and-Buy Day, when Trader Jolly visits the Island with all the supplies Monty and his friends need.

But this Bring-and-Buy day is different. Instead of Trader Jolly, there’s a sneaky new trader called Beady Bold. And he’s arrived with a boatload of trouble. The yum-yams are yummy, but they’re hiding a very scary secret.

All seems lost until Monty comes up with a daring plan.

**BOOK 3: ELVIS EAGER AND THE GOLDEN EGG**
The most unexpected things wash up on Monty’s Island. And a golden egg might be his most amazing find yet!

But when a pair of flying monsters and a mysterious explorer arrive, it seems the egg is about to hatch into a very big problem.

Can Monty find a way to solve it? Surely he can! All he needs is a little help from his friends. And the Hairy Horrible.

Emily Rodda is one of the most successful, prolific and versatile writers in Australia. She has written or co-authored over 100 books, from picture books to YA novels, including the award-winning Rowan of Rin, Teen Power Inc and Fairy Realm series and the outstandingly successful Deltora Quest fantasy series (total sales more than 15 million worldwide). Winner of the Children’s Book Council of Australia’s Book of the Year (Younger Readers) Award a record six times, Rodda instinctively knows what children want to read. In 1995 Rodda won the prestigious Dromkeen Medal. www.emilyrodda.com.

Lucinda Gifford has illustrated numerous well-loved books for kids and in 2014 was awarded the Five Mile Press Illustrator Prize. www.lucindagifford.com
HODGEPODGE: HOW TO MAKE A PET MONSTER
Lili Wilkinson, illustrated by Dustin Spence

Doesn’t everyone want their very own pet monster?

I’m Artie. I’m eleven years old. I do not believe in ghosts, or monsters. I do believe in science. I also believe that my new step-sister Willow is kinda terrifying.

Artie and Willow are thrown together when Artie’s mum and Willow’s dad move them all into a big SPOOKY house. In the attic, Artie and Willow find the Big Boke of Fetching Monsters – an ancient monster-summoning spellbook.

The weird old ingredients the book recommends are impossible to find, so they throw in round-the-house ingredients instead. Their first monster isn’t quite what they expected… Hodgepodge brings plenty of trouble and chaos, but Artie and Willow come to love him all the same. Even his farts!

How long can they keep a pet monster secret?

How to Make a Pet Monster is a gloriously funny and collectable new series with a broad story arc, yet each title is designed to stand-alone. They’re filled with monsters and magic, and a touch of science too, making this an entertaining and engaging read for imaginative and curious minds!

Book 2 coming in December 2020!

Lili Wilkinson is an award-winning author of picture books and YA novels, including The Boundless Sublime and is a strong advocate for Australian YA literature. She established insideradog.com.au and the Inky Awards at the Centre for Youth Literature, State Library of Victoria. She has a PhD in Creative Writing. Dustin Spence is an illustrator with a background in animation and games. He loves creating playful, whimsical and colourful illustrations that explore the depths of his imagination.

‘Shoestring loved the sudden intake of breath when he stepped onto the rope. The upturned faces of the audience made him think of coins scattered at his feet, more coins than he had ever taken when he was a pickpocket.’

Twelve-year-old Shoestring is leaving behind his life of crime and starting a new career with the Troupe of Marvels. As their lead performer, he has an invisible tightrope and an act to die for. But trouble is brewing – the magical gloves that caused so much turmoil for the musical genius KidGlovz are back.

When he’s wearing the gloves, the world is at Shoestring’s fingertips. It’s so easy to help himself to whatever he likes – even other people’s hopes and dreams. But when he steals his best friend’s mind, he’s at risk of losing what he values most. Shoestring needs every bit of his courage and daring to conquer the gloves once and for all.

A companion to the award-winning KidGlovz, or a standalone title, Shoestring, the Boy Who Walks on Air is a thrilling, heart-in-the-mouth adventure of ambition, magic, friendship and the threads that bind.

Julie Hunt is the author of many award-winning books, including the picture book The Coat, illustrated by Ron Brooks, the middle grade adventure titles KidGlovz, Shine Mountain, Song for a Scarlet Runner and the junior illustrated series, Little Else. www.juliehunt.com.au. Dale Newman has been engaged in creative life for over thirty years, as a newspaper artist, a printmaker, a musician and songwriter, a youth arts worker and a freelance illustrator. KidGlovz was her first graphic novel. www.dalenewman.com.au

‘Julie Hunt’s storytelling is captivating; she creates dark-edged adventures with echoes of folklore. A colourful cast of characters and a vivid setting transport the reader into a world of circus, music and magic. Illustrator Dale Newman once again brings her unique style to this work, creating a visual narrative that provides another layer to the story, opening it up to a broader readership. The marriage of Hunt’s text and Newman’s images is comparable to the work of Brian Selznick.’

M H Alessandrin, Books+Publishing, 2020

Julie Hunt is an award-winning author of picture books and YA novels, including The Boundless Sublime, and is a strong advocate for Australian YA literature. She established insideradog.com.au and the Inky Awards at the Centre for Youth Literature, State Library of Victoria. She has a PhD in Creative Writing. Dustin Spence is an illustrator with a background in animation and games. He loves creating playful, whimsical and colourful illustrations that explore the depths of his imagination.
A CLUE FOR CLARA
Lian Tanner, illustrated by Cheryl Orsini

Can a scruffy chicken crack a crime? Perhaps, if she’s a genius like Clara. From the highly-acclaimed author of Ella and the Ocean and The Keepers series comes this egg-cellent stand-alone funny tale about a small chicken and a big crime.

Clara, a much pecked and picked-on chicken, learnt all about being a detective from watching television with the Boss and thinks it’s her ticket out of the chicken yard. She just needs a girl genius partner (like her favourite TV detective, Amelia X) and an important case.

Clara might not be able to speak English (beaks are no good for this) but she is awfully clever and it doesn’t take much to learn how to use a smartphone when she meets Detective Olive in the back seat of a police car:

‘GREETINGS I AM A DETECTIVE I WISH TO WORK WITH YOU ON AN IMPORTANT CASE A JEWEL HEIST OR A MURDER’

Little Dismal is a country town with a real problem. Times are hard and livestock is going missing. Twelve-year-old Olive has a big problem too. She misses her mum, and her dad, the local sergeant, seems to have given up on work and life.

So, when a small scruffy chicken comes up with a great plan to find out what’s happening in the town, Olive’s keen to help. After all, solving the case might help save her dad too.

Friday 29 January

Olive says goodbye to her father, and places the suitcase containing her belongings in the back seat of the police car. She’s worked out that her dad has been acting strangely because he’s been fantasising about a mythical treasure.

Monday 04 February

Olive is now trying to think of a plan. If she were a detective she would have two clues...

1) A cheap hotel in town

2) A magician who is trying to make a chicken vanish

Olive makes a phone call to the local hotel...

Monday 03 March

Olive has discovered a clue...

The chicken is a real Melania

Tuesday 04 March

Olive is now trying to think of a plan. If she were a detective she would have two clues...

1) The chicken is a real Melania

2) The chicken is a real Melania

Olive makes a phone call to the local hotel...

Wednesday 05 March

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ACROSS THE RISEN SEA
Bren MacDibble

Across the Risen Sea is another original and heartfelt middle-fiction adventure, exploring themes of loyalty, resilience, courage and the environment, from the multi-award winning author of How to Bee and The Dog Runner.

‘It’s one of them days when everything is off. A hot sweaty night in Rusty Bus means we kids is all grouchily-tired. Me and my best friend, Jaguar, is trying to cool down by taking turns at dipping in the sea pool. Him standing on the sea wall made from car frames and rocks on lookout for crocs, me swimming, then we’ll swap places. We’s always doing things as a team, him and me. We’s gonna be the best fisher people and the best salvagers on the whole of the inland sea one day.’

Neoma and Jag and their small community are ‘living gentle lives’ on high ground surrounded by the risen sea that caused widespread devastation. When strangers from the Valley of the Sun arrive unannounced they find themselves drawn into a web of secrecy and lies that endangers their whole way of life. Soon daring, loyal Neoma must set off on a solo mission across the risen sea, determined to rescue her best friend and find the truth that will save her village.

On How to Bee:
‘This story has a passion and energy both in the characters and in the writing that sets it apart. ...MacDibble has created a vivid unusual world ... her dialogue is colourful and snaps with energy.’ Mia Macrossan, Magpies

‘A must read for all ages – for the adults who shape the world we live in and for the children who will guide the future. How to Bee is an engaging read; a story of challenging concepts offered within a heart-warming tale’ Jennifer Mors, Reading Time, CBCA

‘A highly original novel in a unique and authentic voice. Peony is fierce, flawed and absolutely endearing – a girl power model in the best, most subtle way. She and my Nim would be kindred spirits – I wish they could meet!’ Wendy Orr

Bren MacDibble was raised on farms all over New Zealand, so is an expert about being a kid on the land. After 20 years in Melbourne, Bren sold everything, and spent two years living and working in a bus travelling around Australia. She recently parked her bus on the beautiful west coast of Australia, where she now manages a holiday villa. Bren also writes for young adults under the name Cally Black. www.macdibble.com

THE DOG RUNNER

Complete with MacDibble’s revered original voice and strong female protagonist The Dog Runner is set in an intensely believable future, in which vegetation pathogens have created a dry harsh landscape devoid of growth, green and food. It’s a menacing environment but it’s the starving people that pose the biggest threat.

If Ella and her brother Emery are going to survive, they must get away from the city and go upcountry, to find Emery’s mum. But how can two kids travel such vast distances across such a menacing landscape? When Emery is injured, Ella must find a way to navigate them and their dry-land dogsled through rough terrain and dangerous encounters with desperate people.

Awards:
Notable: 2020 Best Book for Younger Readers, Childrens Book Council Australia
Shortlisted: 2020 Readings Children’s Book Prize – winner announced late April
Nominated: 2020 CILIP Carnegie Medal (UK)
Winner: 2019 NZ Children’s Book of the Year, Esther Glen Award for Junior Fiction
Shortlisted: 2019 Red Magazine Big Book Award (UK)

HOW TO BEE

How To Bee is a beautiful and fierce novel set against in a future where real bees are extinct and the quickest, bravest kids climb the fruit trees to pollinate the flowers by hand.

Peony lives with her sister and grandfather on a fruit farm outside the city. All Peony really wants is to be a Bee – to use her strength and agility to pollinate the flowers and ensure a bumper fruit crop. Life on the farm is a scrabble, but there is enough to eat and a place to sleep, and there is love. Then Peony’s mother arrives to take her away from everything she has ever known to help her make money in the city, and all Peony’s grit and quick thinking might not be enough to keep her safe.

Awards:
Winner: 2018 Children’s Book Council Book of the Year Award for Younger Readers
Winner: 2018 NSW Premier’s Literary Awards Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children’s Literature
Winner: 2018 NZ Book Awards, Wright Family Foundation Esther Glen Award for Junior Fiction
Shortlisted: 2018 Long Work, Norma K Hemming Award
Shortlisted: 2018 Adelaide Festival Awards, Children’s Literature
Shortlisted: 2017 Best Children’s Novel, Aurealis Awards
Shortlisted: 2017 Queensland Literary Awards, Griffith University Children’s Book Award

NG

Rights sold:
Nth Am English (Groundwood)
UK English (Old Barn)
Korean (Namubooks)
French (Helium)
Film (Lisa Hoppe)

Rights sold:
UK English (Old Barn)
Korean (Prunsoop)

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION
AGES 9-13

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION
AGES 9-13

August 2020 • 198x128mm • PB • 240pp • WORLD RIGHTS

February 2019; May 2017 • 198x128mm • PB • 248pp; 224pp
WORLD RIGHTS • RIGHTS SOLD (see above)
THE JANUARY STARS
Kate Constable

Full of warmth and humour, wonderful family relationships and highly appealing characters, *The January Stars* is a compelling adventure that journeys through heart and place.

When fourteen-year-old Tash and her twelve-year-old sister Clancy are left alone for a weekend, they accidentally kidnap their wheelchair-using grandfather from his aged-care facility. Pa has suffered a stroke and can’t talk but he’s clearly very happy about leaving! They visit Pa’s former home in a nearby bushland suburb and it brings Pa such delight that they decide to find him a new home with family members. But where, and with whom? They break into the (empty) house and squat for the night but an early knock on the door sees them on the run!

A taxi-train-car road-trip ensues as they journey through city, country and coast, escaping police, searching for their aunties, and new home for Pa. They face many challenges en route but Tash and Clancy discover their resourcefulness, resilience, courage and voice. Together they demonstrate their heartfelt love for their grandfather and find him a new way of life.

FROM STELLA STREET TO AMSTERDAM
Elizabeth Honey

A brand new Stella Street adventure from Elizabeth Honey! When Henni goes to Amsterdam with her elderly Dutch neighbour, she discovers a long-held family secret. But this puts Henni in a terrible dilemma — should she tell the Dutch family what she knows?

When stubborn old Wilhelmina, ‘Willa’, insists she return to Holland for a wedding, Henni is chosen to accompany her. ‘Lucky duck! Fantastic opportunity!’ ‘Oh boy, chance of a lifetime.’ That’s what everyone in Stella Street said. But if they only knew the Stella Street Willa. She was a big old mystery.

On the long flight to Amsterdam they hit terrible turbulence and Willa, convinced she will die, tells Henni the real reason for her journey — a terrible family secret, going back to the Second World War.

But now Henni knows, and when she makes friends with Willa’s family she must decide if they should know the truth...

The Stella Street series stories, *45 & 47 Stella Street, Fiddle-back, The Ballad of Cauldron Bay*, and *To the Boy in Berlin*, are funny, exciting, fast-paced and unputdownable! Each one is illustrated throughout with sketches, doodles and letters. This intriguing new Stella Street adventure, *From Stella Street to Amsterdam*, contributes to their 25th anniversary celebration!
Asphyxia is an artist, writer, public speaker, avid art-journal creator and the author of the much-loved junior fiction Grimstone series. Deaf since the age of three, Asphyxia learnt to sign when she was eighteen, which changed her life. She is now a Deaf activist, sharing details of Deaf experience. She raises awareness of oppression of Deaf people and what we can do to change this. Her free online Auslan course has had over 15,000 students. Asphyxia also loves to share her art-journaling processes, helping others benefit from its powers for self-expression, problem-solving, planning, goal-tracking and self-esteem (see Pinterest: Asphyxia1974). She lives on a small farm where she combines food-growing with art.

FUTURE GIRL
Asphyxia

Future Girl is a captivating own-voice coming-of-age novel that bursts with passion, resilience, optimism and joie-de-vivre. Presented as 16-year-old Piper’s stunning visual-art journal, author Asphyxia deftly weaves her detailed insight into Deaf culture and what it feels like to be d/Deaf throughout this compelling story set in the near future.

Piper’s mum wants her to be ‘normal’, to pass as hearing and get a good job. But when peak oil hits and the city lurches towards environmental catastrophe, Piper has more important things to worry about, such as how to get food.

When Piper meets Marley, a CODA (child of Deaf adult), a door opens into a new world in which Deafness is something to celebrate rather than hide, and where resilience is created through growing your own food rather than it being delivered on a truck.

As Piper dives into learning Auslan, a sign language that is exquisitely beautiful and expressive, she finds herself falling hard for Marley. But Marley, who has grown up in the Deaf community but is not Deaf, is struggling to find his place betwixt the Deaf and hearing worlds. How can they be together?

Offering an authentic window into the world of the Deaf, Future Girl is also rich with romance, a fraught and complicated mother–daughter relationship, inspiration to live more sustainably, and guidance for those interested in art-journaling. It’s absorbing, interesting, motivating and important – all in one.

Asphyxia is an artist, writer, public speaker, avid art-journal creator and the author of the much-loved junior fiction Grimstone series. Deaf since the age of three, Asphyxia learnt to sign when she was eighteen, which changed her life. She is now a Deaf activist, sharing details of Deaf experience. She raises awareness of oppression of Deaf people and what we can do to change this. Her free online Auslan course has had over 15,000 students. Asphyxia also loves to share her art-journaling processes, helping others benefit from its powers for self-expression, problem-solving, planning, goal-tracking and self-esteem (see Pinterest: Asphyxia1974). She lives on a small farm where she combines food-growing with art. Future Girl combines all these passions. www.asphyxia.com.au
YOUNG ADULT FICTION

DEEP WATER
Sarah Epstein

A gripping mystery about a missing boy and a group of teenagers, one of whom knows something but isn’t telling, from the award-winning author of Small Spaces.

HENRY WEAVER IS MISSING
Three months ago, thirteen-year-old Henry disappeared from The Shallows during a violent storm, leaving behind his muddy mountain bike at the train station.

MASON WEAVER IS TRAPPED
While Mason doesn’t know who he is or what he’s capable of, he knows the one thing binding him to this suffocating small town is his younger brother, Henry.

CHLOE BAXTER WANTS ANSWERS
Why would Henry run away without telling her? One of Chloe’s friends knows something and she’s determined to find out the truth.

As Chloe wades into dangerous waters and Mason’s past emerges, a chilling question ripples to the surface: how far would you go to keep a secret?

Sarah Epstein is a writer, illustrator and designer. She grew up in suburban Sydney and now lives in Melbourne with her husband and two sons. Her first novel Small Spaces, a YA psychological thriller, won Best YA Crime Novel at the Sisters in Crime Davitt Awards and the Adelaide Festival Award for Young Adult Fiction, and was an Honour Book at the Children’s Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards. It was also short-listed for another six awards including the NSW Premier’s Literary Awards, the Queensland Literary Awards and the Australian Book Industry Awards.

NON-FICTION

UNTWISTED: THE STORY OF MY LIFE
Paul Jennings

Honest, insightful, funny – a brilliant creative memoir about writing and teaching and life from one of Australia’s most loved children’s authors.

When you write fiction, you can do whatever you like with the plot and make sure that it ends up with a twist or a surprise.

But with a memoir like this one, you don’t have the freedom to twist the plot, because real life follows a random path and things don’t always work out the way you would have liked ...

In the telling of his own tale, children’s author and screenwriter Paul Jennings demonstrates how seemingly small events can combine into a compelling drama. As if assembling the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, he puts together fragments, memories and anecdotes to reveal the portrait of a complex and weathered soul.

Paul Jennings has crafted perhaps his most masterful story yet ... the story of his life. Untwisted is revealing, moving and very funny.

Paul Jennings has written over one hundred stories and has won every Australian children’s choice book award. Since the publication of Unreal! in 1985, readers all around the world have loved his books. The top-rating TV series Round the Twist and Driven Crazy were based on a selection of his enormously popular short-story collections such as Unseen! In 1995 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to children’s literature and he was awarded the prestigious Dromkeen Medal in 2001.
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